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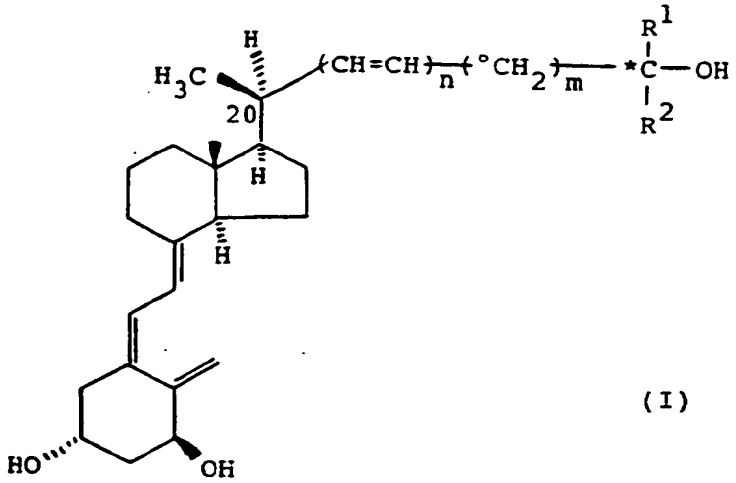

(I)

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to compounds of formula (I), in which formula, n is 0 or 1, m is 0 or an integer from 1-7, R^1 and R^2 (which may be the same or different) stand for hydrogen or C_1-C_8-hydrocarbyl, or, taken together with the carbon bearing the hydroxyl group (starred in formula I), R^1 and R^2 can form a saturated or unsaturated C_3-C_8 carbocyclic ring. In addition, R^1 and/or R^2 and/or one of the m carbons designatedby the "°" may be optionally substituted with a hydroxyl group or one or more chlorine or fluorine atom(s); and finally one of the carbons designated "°" may optionally be substituted by one or two C_1-C_2 alkyl group(s); and derivatives of the compounds of formula I in which one or more hydroxy have been transformed into -O-acyl or -O-glycosyl or phosphate ester groups; such masked groups being hydrolyzable *in vivo*. The present compounds find use in both the human and veterinary practice in the treatment and prophylaxis of aut immune diseases (including diabetes mellitus), hypertension, acne, alopecia, skin ageing, imbalance in the imune system, inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and asthma as well as diseases characterized by abnormal cell differentiation and/or cell proliferation, such as e.g. psoriasis and cancer.

* See back of page

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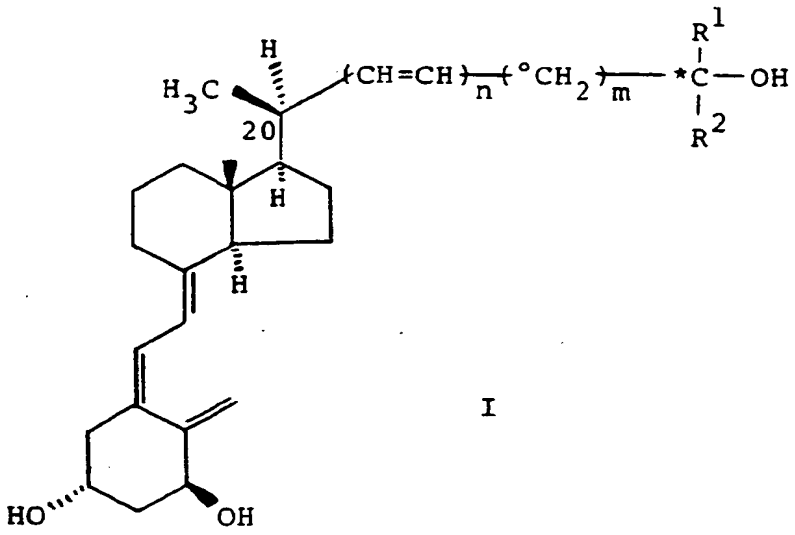
NOVEL VITAMIN D ANALOGUES

This invention relates to a hitherto unknown class of compounds which shows antiinflammatory and immunomodulating effects as well as strong activity in inducing differentiation and inhibiting undesirable proliferation of certain cells, including cancer cells and skin cells, to pharmaceutical preparations containing these compounds, to dosage units of such preparations, and to their use in the treatment and prophylaxis of a number of disease states including diabetes mellitus, hypertension, acne, alopecia, skin ageing, imbalance in the immune system, inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and asthma as well as diseases characterized by abnormal cell differentiation and/or cell proliferation such as e.g. psoriasis and cancer.

The compounds of the invention constitute a novel class of vitamin D analogues and are represented by the general formula I



I

in which formula (and also throughout the r mainder of this disclosure), n is 0 or 1, m is 0 or an integer from 1 - 7, R^1 and R^2 (which may b the same or different) stand for hydrogen or C_1-C_8-hydrocarbyl, or, taken together with the

carbon bearing the hydroxyl group (starred in formula I), R^1 and R^2 can form a saturated or unsaturated C_3-C_8 carbocyclic ring. In addition, R^1 and/or R^2 and/or one of the m carbons designated by the "°" may be optionally substituted with a hydroxyl group or one or more chlorine or fluorine atom(s); and finally one of the carbons designated "°" may optionally be substituted by one or two C_1-C_2 alkyl group(s).

In the context of this invention, the expression hydrocarbyl radical indicates the residue after removal of a hydrogen atom from a straight, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon.

Examples of R^1 and R^2 when taken separately include (apart from hydrogen), but are not limited to, methyl, trifluoromethyl, ethyl, vinyl, normal-, iso- and cyclo-propyl, and 1-methylvinyl.

Examples of R^1 and R^2 when taken together include di-, tri-, tetra- and penta-methylene.

As can be seen from formula I, depending on the meanings of R^1, R^2, and n, the compounds of the invention include diastereoisomeric forms (e.g. E or Z configuration of a side chain double bond; R or S configuration at the starred carbon atom). The invention covers all these diastereoisomers in pure form and also mixtures of diastereoisomers. It should be noted, however, that our investigations indicate a notable difference in activity between the stereoisomeric forms. In addition, derivatives of I in which one or more of the hydroxy groups are masked as groups which can be reconverted to hydroxy groups in vivo are also within the scope of the invention ("bioreversible derivatives or pro-drugs of I").

The term "bioreversible derivatives or prodrugs of I" includes, but is not limited to, derivatives of the compounds of formula I in which one or more hydroxy groups have been transformed into -O-acyl or -O-glycosyl or phosphat ester groups, such masked groups being hydrolyzable in vivo.

Also within the scope of this disclosur is another

type of prodrug of I in which the hydroxyl group at the starred carbon atom is replaced by a hydrogen atom. These compounds are relatively inactive in vitro, but are converted to active compounds of formula I by enzymatic hydroxylation after administration to the patient.

It has recently been shown that 1α,25-dihydroxy-vitamin D_3 ($1,25(OH)_2D_3$) influences the effects and/or production of interleukins (Immunol. Lett. 17, 361-366 (1988)), indicating the potential use of this compound in the treatment of diseases characterized by a dysfunction of the immune system, e.g. autoimmune diseases, host versus graft reactions, and rejection of transplants or other conditions characterized by an abnormal interleukin-1 production, e.g. inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and asthma.

It has also been shown that $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ is able to stimulate the differentiation of cells and inhibit excessive cell proliferation (Abe, E. et al, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., U.S.A. 78, 4990-4994 (1981)), and it has been suggested that this compound might be useful in the treatment of diseases characterized by abnormal cell proliferation and/or cell differentiation such as leukemia, myelofibrosis and psoriasis.

Also, the use of $1,25(OH)_2D_3$, or its pro-drug 1α-OH-D_3, for the treatment of hypertension (Lind, L. et al, Acta Med. Scand. 222, 423-427 (1987)) and diabetes mellitus (Inomata, S. et al, Bone Mineral 1, 187-192 (1986)) has been suggested. Another indication for $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ is suggested by the recent observation of an association between hereditary vitamin D resistance and alopecia: treatment with $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ may promote hair growth (Lancet, March 4, 1989, p. 478). Also, the fact that topical application of $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ reduces the size of sebaceous glands in the ears of male Syrian hamsters suggests that this compound might be useful for the treatment of acne (Malloy, V.L. t al., the Tricontinental Meeting for Investigative Dermatology, Washington, 1989). Finally, as thickening of the skin is observed in rats treated

topically with $1,25(OH)_2D_3$, this compound may be useful for treatment or prev ntion of skin ageing.

However, the therapeutic possibilities in such indications of $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ are severely limited by the well known potent effect of this hormone on calcium metabolism; elevated blood concentrations will rapidly give rise to hypercalcemia. Thus, this compound and its potent synthetic analogues are not completely satisfatory for use as drugs in the treatment of e.g. psoriasis, leukemia or immune diseases which may require continuous administration of the drug in relatively high doses.

A number of vitamin D analogues have recently been described which show some degree of selectivity in favour of the cell differentiation inducing/cell proliferation inhibiting activity as compared with the effect on calcium metabolism.

Thus, the vitamin D_3 analogue, MC 903, containing a 22,23-double bond, a 24-hydroxy group and in which the carbon atoms 25,26 and 27 are incorporated in a three membered ring, is a potent inducer of cell differentiation and inhibitor of cell proliferation which shows only moderate activity on calcium metabolism in vivo (Binderup, L. and Bramm, E., Biochemical Pharmacology 37, 889-895 (1988)). However, this selectivity is not paralleled by in vitro studies, which show that MC 903 binds equally well as $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ to the intestinal vitamin D receptor. It may therefore be that the low in vivo activity on calcium metabolism of MC 903 is due to a rapid metabolism of the compound, thus limiting the potential of this compound for systemic use.

24-Homo-1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_3 and 26-homo-1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_3 (together with their 22,23-didehydro-analogues) (Ostrem, V.K.; Tanaka, Y.; Prahl, J.; DeLuca, H.F.; and Ikekawa, N.; Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84, 2610-14 (1987)) have b en claim d to have the same binding affinity as $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ to both the rat and chicken intestinal receptor and the receptor in a human myeloid leukemia cell line (HL-60), and yet to be 10-fold mor

potent than $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ in inducing differentiation of HL-60 cells in vitro. In vivo, these compounds are respectively "significantly less potent" and "more potent" than $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ in calcium metabolism assessments.

26,27-Dimethyl-1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_3 has been synthesized, but the published information regarding its biological acitivities is contradictory. (Sai, H.; Takatsuto, S.; Hara, N.; and Ikekawa, N.; Chem. Pharm. Bull. 33, 878-881 (1985) and Ikekawa, N.; Eguchi, T.; Hara, N.; Takatsuto, S.; Honda, A.; Mori, Y.; and Otomo, S.; Chem. Pharm. Bull. 35, 4362-4365 (1987)). The closely related 26,27-diethyl-1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_3 is also reported by these authors; in this case as having "almost no vitamin D activity" (i.e. calcium metabolism effects) while being 10-fold more potent than $1,25(OH)_2D_3$ in inducing cell differentiation.

The fact that there are only small structural differences between the above compounds indicates that the present state of knowledge does not allow prediction of the structure of vitamin D analogues which will show a favourable degree of selectivity, as reflected by a higher cell differentiating activity in vitro compared to the binding affinity for intestinal vitamin D receptor in vitro. Furthermore, the matter is complicated by the observation that receptor binding affinities in vitro are not always paralleled by in vivo studies, probably reflecting a pharmacokinetic difference between the compounds.

The compounds of the present invention differ structurally from all vitamin D analogues which have been reported to have potent effects on cell differentiation/proliferation in the configuration of the methyl group at carbon-20. This "unnatural" configuration present in the compounds I has surprisingly been found to have a profound and advantageous biological significance. Thus a particular compound of formula I, when compared to the corresponding compound containing the "natural" C-20 configuration (methyl and hydrogen radicals exchanged), is observed to show one or more of the following advantages:-

(a) more potent effects on cell differ ntiation/proliferation;

(b) a greater selectivity in favour of the potent effects on cell differentiation/proliferation contra the effects on calcium metabolism;

(c) more potent effects on the production and action of interleukins;

(d) a greater selectivity in favour of the effects on interleukin production and action contra the effects on calcium metabolism.

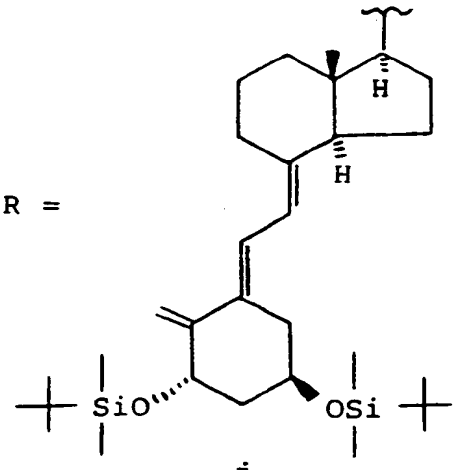
The compounds of the invention are therefore especially suited for both local and systemic treatment and prophylaxis of human and veterinary disorders which are characterized by 1) abnormal cell proliferation and/or cell differentiation, such as certain dermatological disorders including psoriasis and certain cancer forms, 2) an imbalance in the immune system, e.g in autoimmune diseases, including diabetes mellitus, host versus graft reaction, and rejection of transplants; and additionally for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and asthma. Acne, alopecia, skin ageing, including photo-ageing, and hypertension are other conditions which may be treated with the compounds of the invention.

The present compounds may be used in combination with other pharmaceuticals. In the prevention of graft rejection and graft versus host reaction, a treatment with the present compounds may advantageously be combined with e.g. a cyclosporin treatment.

Compounds I can be prepared from the vitamin D-derived aldehyde 1j; a synthesis of which has been reported [M.J. Calverley, Tetrahedron 43, 4609 (1987)], optionally via the compounds 2j, 3j or 4j (Scheme 1), or from the compounds 1k, 2k, 3k or 4k, which may be obtained by triplet-sensitized photoisomerization of the corresponding compound j. Schemes 2 to 6 illustrate reactions for th conv rsion of these key int rmediates to compounds I in which n, m, R^1 and R^2 have various meanings.

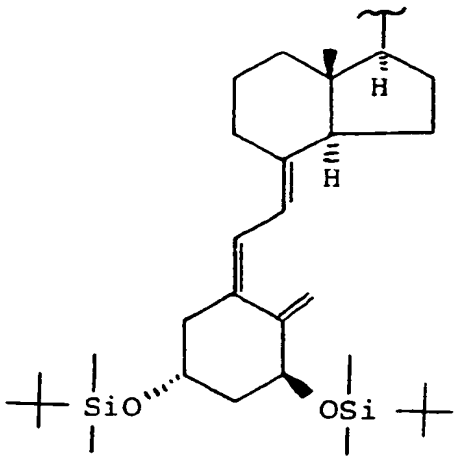
In Schem s 1-6, the following abbreviation is used:

R =



j

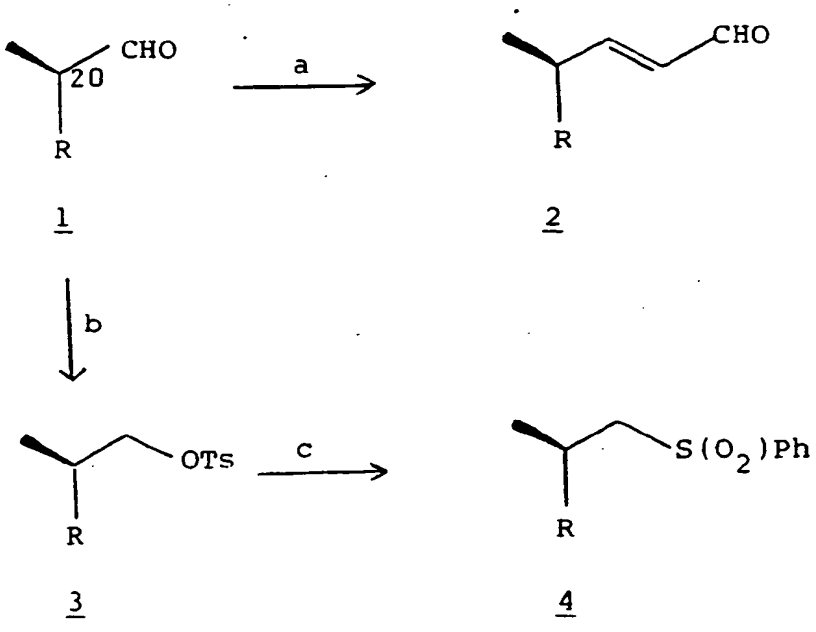
or



k

In the Notes to Schemes 1-7, appropriate aqueous work-up steps are implicit. For explanation of the expression "side chain fragment," see following text.

Scheme 1



1 2

3 4

Notes to Sch m 1

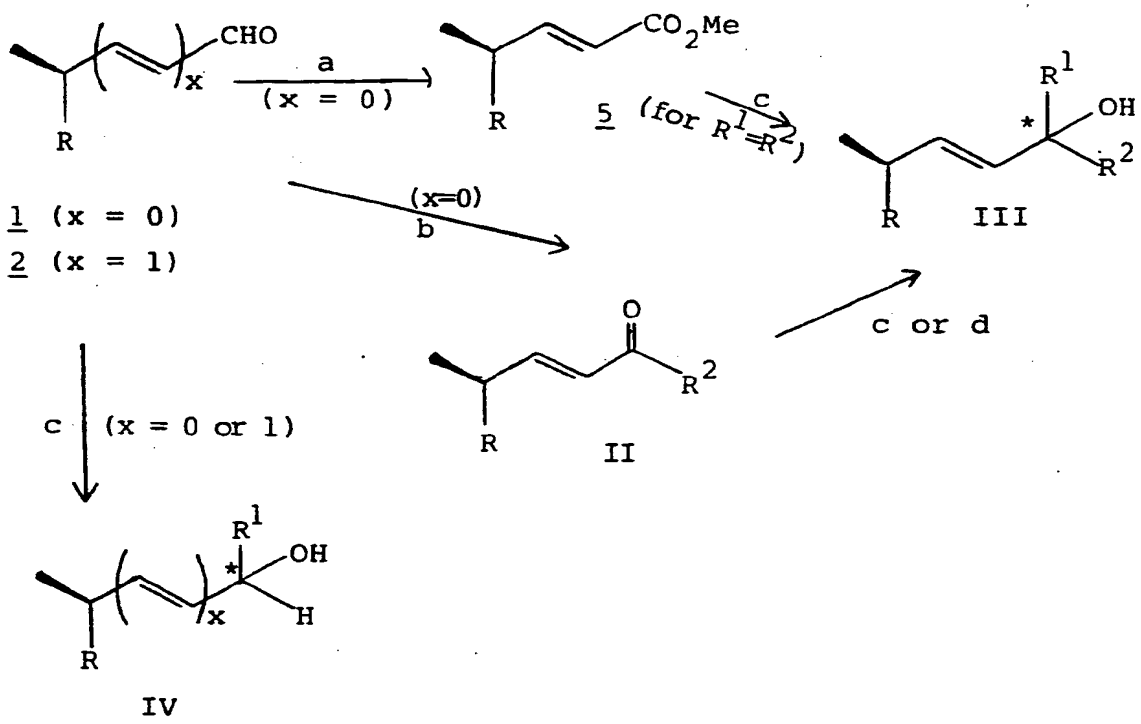
R=j → R=k at any stage: hν-anthracene (toluene or CH_2Cl_2 containing Et_3N).

a. 1 → 2: (i) $Ph_3{}^{\oplus}P\text{-}{}^{\ominus}CHCO_2Me$ (toluene) (gives compound 5 of Scheme 2); (ii) i-Bu_2AlH (THF) (gives compound III, $R^1 = R^2 = H$, of Scheme 2 (compound 111)); (iii) pyridinium dichromate (CH_2Cl_2);

b. (i) $NaBH_4$ (EtOH-THF); (ii) TsCl-pyridine (CH_2Cl_2);

c. (i) $PhS^{\ominus}K^{\oplus}$ (THF-DMF); (ii) H_2O_2 - $NaWO_4$ ($MeCO_2Et$-EtOH--H_2O).

Scheme 2



Notes to Scheme 2

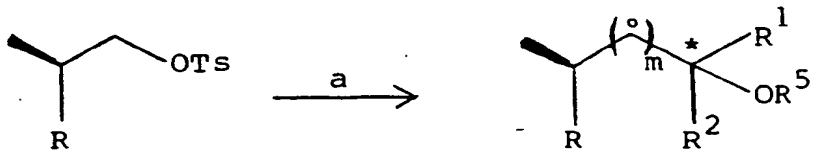
a. $Ph_3{}^{\oplus}P\text{-}{}^{\ominus}CHCO_2Me$ (toluene);

b. Metallated derivative, anion or ylide (C') from side chain fragment C (anhydrous solvent or phase transfer conditions);

c. R^1MgBr (R^1MgI) or R^1Li (THF);

d. $NaBH_4$-$CeCl_3$ (THF-MeOH) (for R^1=H).

Scheme 3

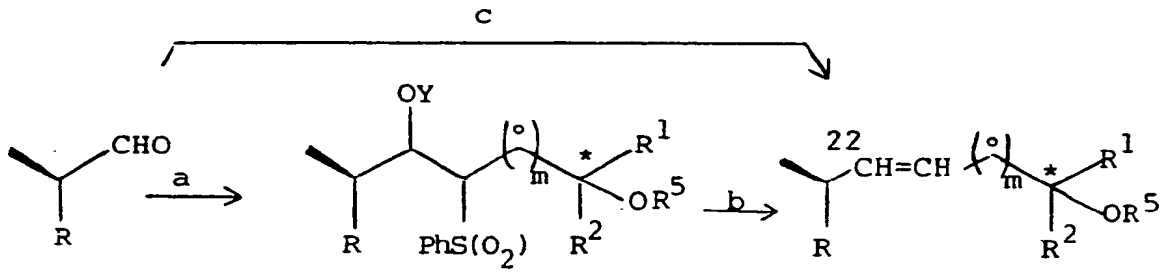


3 V (m is 3 or more)

Note to Scheme 3

a. Grignard reagent (A') [derived from side chain fragment A (y=m-2)] in the presence of Li_2CuCl_4 (THF).

Scheme 4



1 VI VIIa (22E)
VIIb (22Z)

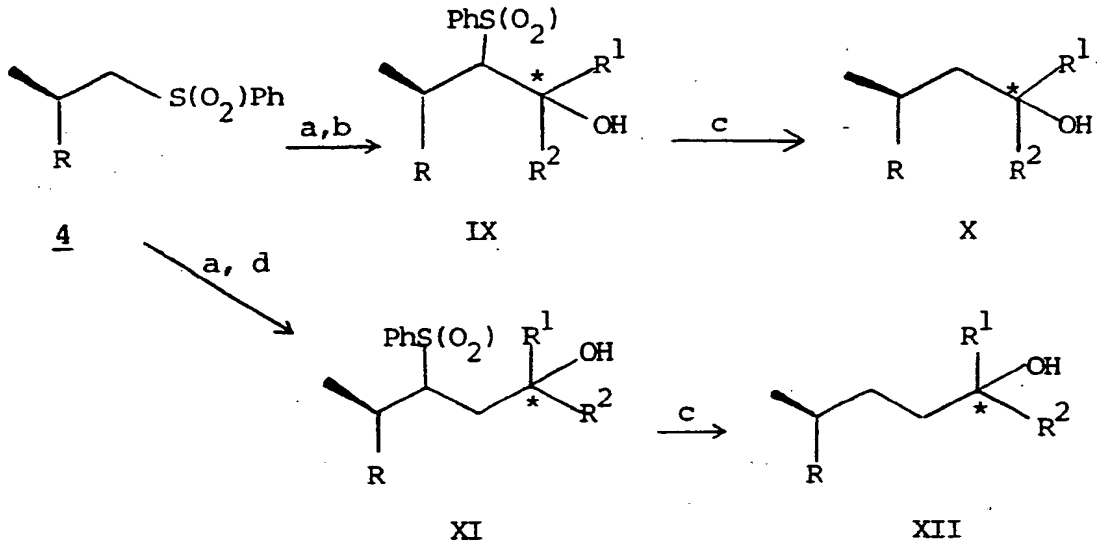
Notes to Scheme 4

a. (i) Metallated derivative (B') of side chain fragment B (y=m) (THF); (ii) Optional derivatisation of the intermediate alkoxide (Y=M) or the isolated Y=H compound, e.g. with benzoyl chloride;

b. Reductive elimination mediated by e.g.Na-Hg [for Y=H, MeC(O)-, PhC(O)- or M $S(O_2)$-];

c. Metallated derivative, anion or ylide (W') from side chain fragment W.

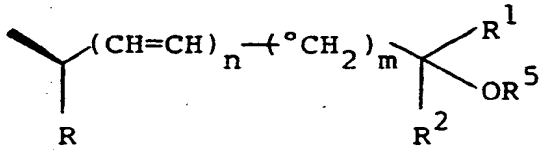
Scheme 5



Notes to Scheme 5

a. $LiN(Pr^i)_2$ (THF);
b. $R^1C(O)R^2$ (THF);
c. Na-Hg (MeOH-EtOAc - Na_2HPO_4);
d. $CH_2C(R^1)(R^2)$ (THF).
\ O /

Scheme 6



a → XIIIj
b → XIIIk → I

R^5= H

Notes to Sch me 6

R^5 = H or alcohol protective group

a. anthracene - hν (toluene or CH_2Cl_2 containing Et_3N);

b. (i) n-$Bu_4N^+F^-$ (THF) or HF (MeCN-H_2O);
(ii) any necessary reaction (sequence) for deprotecting OR^5 - OH.

Compounds XIII correspond to the compounds of the type III, IV, V, VII, X or XII described in Schemes 2 - 5, and appear as these in Table 3 and the Preparations.

A key step in the syntheses as described is the reaction with an intermediate (of type A', B', W' or C') which is obtained by treatment of a side chain fragment of type A, B, W or C respectively) either by conversion to an organometallic agent or to an ylide, as appropriate.

All these types of reactions are well known in the art of carbon-carbon bond formation in synthetic organic chemistry, and have in fact been applied in syntheses of other vitamin D-type compounds.

In general, the side chain fragments have the structure:

$$Z\text{-}(^\circ CH_2)_y\text{-}C(R^1)(R^2)\text{-}OR^5 \quad \text{(Types A, B and W)}$$

$$Z\text{-}C(O)\text{-}R^2 \quad \text{(type C)}$$

with the following meanings (the following standard abbreviations are used throughout this disclosure: Bu = butyl; Et = ethyl; Hep = heptyl; Me = methyl; Ph = phenyl; Pr = propyl; THP = tetrahydro-4H-pyran-2-yl; THF = tetrahydrofuran; Ts = p-toluenesulphonyl; DMF = N,N-dimethylformamid):

For type A, Z = X-$^\circ CH_2$-, wher X is Cl, Br or I, and corresponding A' has Z = XMg-$^\circ CH_2$-.

For type B, Z = $PhS(O_2)$-CH_2-, and the corr sponding

B' has Z = $PhS(O_2)$-CHM-, where M = metal, e.g. Li.

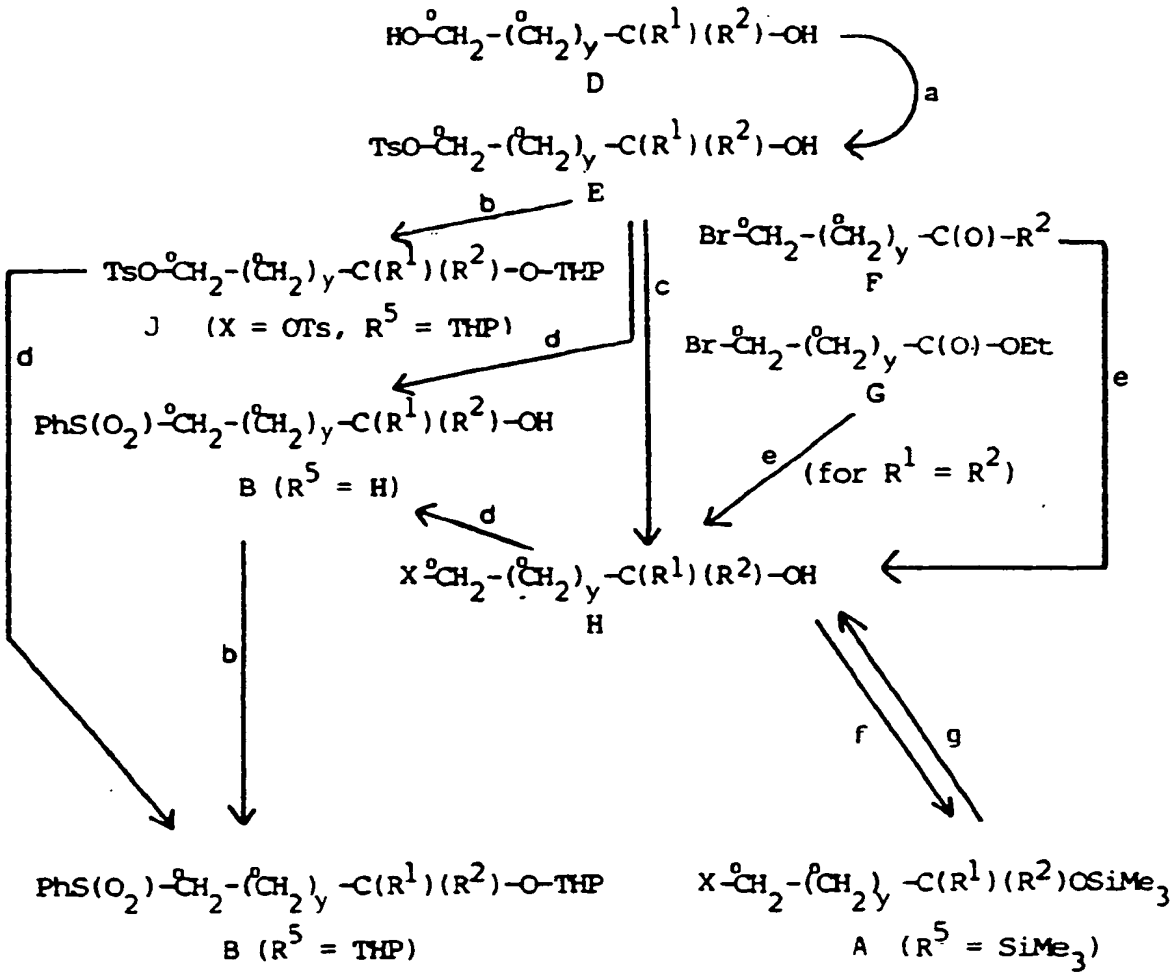
For types C and W, Z = Ph_3P^+-CH_2- or Z = $Q_2P(O)$-CH_2-, where Q = methoxy, ethoxy or phenyl, and the corresponding C' (W') has Z = Ph_3P^+-CH^-- or $Q_2P(O)$-CHM- (M = metal e.g. Li or metal equivalent, e.g. Bu_4N).

R^5 is optionally hydrogen or an alcohol protective group such as tri(loweralkyl)silyl or THP. In the case where R^5= H in A, B, or W, then R^5 = M (M = metal, e.g. XMg or Li) in the derived A', B' or W'.

The syntheses of the particular fragments of types A and B can be varied greatly, but solely for the purpose of exemplification, the syntheses of the specific compounds shown in Table 1 using the routes summarized in Scheme 7 are described in the Preparations. It should be noted that the fragments of type B, with y, R^1 and R^2 corresponding to exemplified type A compounds, but which are not exemplified themselves, are readily obtained from the corresponding described intermediates by analogous reactions. Fragments of type C or C' are known compounds or readily available as described for example in international patent application No. PCT/DK86/00081, international filing date 14th July, 1986, Publication No. WO 87/00834. Some Examples are listed in Table 2.

Some of these side chain fragments are converted (see Preparations and Examples) to the appropriate compounds I via the intermediates indicated in the Schemes. Parallel reactions can be used to convert other side chain fragments to the corresponding compounds I.

Scheme 7



Notes to Scheme 7

a. TsCl - base; b. dihydropyran - acid; c. LiBr (for X = Br) or NaI (for X = I); d. (i) PhSH - base, (ii) H_2O_2 - $NaWO_4$; e. Grignard reagent R^1MgBr or R^1MgI; f. Me_3SiCl - base; g. MeOH - acid;

Table 1: Some Specific Side Chain Fragments (Types A and B [Z-(°CH_2)$_y$-C(R^1)(R^2)OR^5]

Compound Number +	Type *	‡ y	Formula R^1	R^2	R^5	Z
6 ++	A	1	Me	H	$SiMe_3$	ICH_2
7 **	A	1	H	Me	$SiMe_3$	ICH_2
8 **	A	1	H	Hep	$SiMe_3$	ICH_2
9	A	1	Me	Me	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
10	A	1	-$(CH_2)_2$-		$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
11	A	1	-$(CH_2)_4$-		$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
13	A	2	-$(CH_2)_2$-		$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
14	A	2	Et	Et	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
15	A	2	Pr	Pr	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
16	A	3	Me	Me	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
18	A	3	Pr	Pr	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
17	A	3	Et	Et	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
19	A	4	Me	Me	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
20	A	5	Me	Me	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
21	B	1	Me	Me	H	$PhS(O_2)CH_2$
22	B	1	-$(CH_2)_2$-		THP	$PhS(O_2)CH_2$
23	B	2	Et	Et	H	$PhS(O_2)CH_2$
24	B	3	Me	Me	H	$PhS(O_2)CH_2$
25	B	4	Me	Me	H	$PhS(O_2)CH_2$

Table 1 (continued):

Compound Number +	Formula					
	Type*	‡ y	R^1	R^2	R^5	Z
26 ++	A	1 (CH(Me))	Me	Me	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
27 **	A	1 (CH(Me))	Me	Me	$SiMe_3$	$BrCH_2$
28 ++	B	1 (CH(Me))	Me	Me	H	$PhS(O_2)CH_2$
29 **	B	1 (CH(Me))	Me	Me	H	$PhS(O_2)CH_2$

\+ As referred to in the Preparations

* See text

++ S-Form

** R-Form

‡ Unsubstituted CH_2 unless otherwise indicated by specifying an alternative meaning of "(°CH_2)".

Table 2: Some Specific Side Chain Fragments (Type C and C') [Z-C(O)R^2]

Compound Number	R^2	Z
30	] $-CHMe_2$ [	$Ph_3{}^{\oplus}PCH^{\ominus}$
30a		$(EtO)_2P(O)CH_2$
31a y=1 31b y=2 31c y=3 31d y=4	$-\overline{CH(CH_2)_yCH_2}$	$Ph_3{}^{\oplus}PCH^{\ominus}$
32	$-\overline{CCl-CH_2-CH_2}$	$Ph_3{}^{\oplus}PCH^{\ominus}$
33	$-\overline{CF-CH_2-CH_2}$	$(EtO)_2P(O)CH_2$
34	$-CMe_3$	$Ph_3{}^{\oplus}PCH^{\ominus}$
35	$-CHEt_2$	$Ph_3{}^{\oplus}PCH^{\ominus}$
36	$-CH(n\text{-}Pr)_2$	$Ph_3{}^{\oplus}PCH^{\ominus}$

For the synthesis of compounds I in which the starred carbon atom is chiral ($R^1 \neq R^2$), the compound D in Schem 7 is conveniently used as the stereoisomer with largely or exclusively the required configuration, to give largely or exclusively the required diastereoisomer(s) of I.

Alternatively, the compound D may be used as the stereoisomer having the opposite configuration, and the configuration may be then inverted at a later stage in the synthesis.

In other cases where $R^1 \neq R^2$ in compounds I, the isomers in the corresponding intermediates XIII can be separated (e.g. by chromatography), and the configuration at the starred carbon atom can be inverted or equilibrated at this stage by application of standard reactions.

The synthesis of the prodrugs of compounds I which lack the side chain hydroxyl (at the starred carbon atom) may follow the routes of Schemes 3 and 4, using the appropriate side chain fragment of structure $Z\text{-}(^{\circ}CH_2)_y\text{-}CH(R^1)(R^2)$.

The present compounds are intended for use in pharmaceutical compositions which are useful in the treatment of human and veterinary disorders as described above.

The amount required of a compound of formula I (hereinafter referred to as the active ingredient) for therapeutic effect will, of course, vary both with the particular compound, the disease state which is to be treated, the route of administration and the mammal under treatment. The compounds of the invention can be administered by the parenteral, intra-articular, enteral or topical routes. They are well absorbed when given enterally and this is the preferred form of administration in the treatment of systemic disorders.

Conveniently, the active ingredient comprises from 0.1 - 100 µg/g for topical formulations and 0.05 - 100 µg/g for oral and parenteral formulations.

By the term "dosage unit" is meant a unitary, i.e. a single dose which is capable of being administer d to a pati nt as a physically and chemically stable unit dose

comprising either the activ mat rial as such or a mixture of it with solid or liquid pharmaceutical diluents or carriers.

The formulations, both for veterinary and for human medical use, of the present invention comprise an active ingredient in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefore and optionally other therapeutic ingredient(s). The carrier(s) must be "acceptable" in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulations and not deleterious to the recipient thereof.

The formulations include e.g. those in a form suitable for oral, rectal, parenteral (including transdermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular and intravenous), intra-articular and topical administration.

The formulations may conveniently be presented in dosage unit form and may be prepared by any of the methods well known in the art of pharmacy. All methods include th step of bringing the active ingredient into association with the carrier which constitutes one or more accessory ingredients. In general, the formulations are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing the active ingredient into association with a liquid carrier or a finely divided solid carrier or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product into the desired formulation.

Formulations of the present invention suitable for oral administration may be in the form of discrete units as capsules, sachets, tablets or lozenges, each containing a predetermined amount of the active ingredient; in the form of a powder or granules; in the form of a solution or a suspension in an aqueous liquid or non-aqueous liquid; or in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion or a water-in-oil emulsion.

A tablet may be made by compressing or moulding th active ingredient optionally with one or more accessory ingredients. Compr ssed tabl ts may b prepared by compressing, in a suitabl machine, the active ingredient in a fre -flowing form such as a powder or granules, optionally mixed by a binder, lubricant, inert diluent, surfac active

or dispersing agent. Moulded tablets may be made by moulding, in a suitable machine, a mixture of the powdered active ingredient and suitable carrier moistened with an inert liquid diluent.

Formulations for rectal administration may be in the form of a suppository incorporating the active ingredient and a carrier such as cocoa butter, or in the form of an enema.

Formulations suitable for parenteral administration conveniently comprise a sterile oily or aqueous preparation of the active ingredient which is preferably isotonic with the blood of the recipient.

Formulations suitable for intra-articular administration may be in the form of a sterile aqueous preparation of the active ingredient which may be in microcrystalline form, for example, in the form of an aqueous microcrystalline suspension. Liposomal formulations or biodegradable polymer systems may also be used to present the active ingredient for both intra-articular and ophthalmic administration.

Formulations suitable for topical administration include liquid or semi-liquid preparations such as liniments, lotions, applicants, oil-in-water or water-in-oil emulsions such as creams, ointments or pastes; or solutions or suspensions such as drops; or as sprays.

For asthma treatment, inhalation of powder, self-propelling or spray formulations, dispensed with a spray can, a nebulizer or an atomizer can be used. The formulations, when dispensed, preferably have a particle size in the range of 10 to 100 µ.

Such formulations are most preferably in the form of a finely comminuted powder for pulmonary administration from a powder inhalation device or self-propelling powder-dispensing formulations. In the case of self-propelling solution and spray formulations, the effect may be achieved either by choice of a valve having the desired spray characteristics (i.e. being capable of producing a spray having the desired particle size) or by incorporating the

active ingredient as a suspended powder in controll d particle size. Thes self-propelling formulations may be either powder-dispensing formulations or formulations dispensing the active ingredient as droplets of a solution or suspension.

Self-propelling powder-dispensing formulations preferably comprise dispersed particles of solid active ingredients, and a liquid propellant having a boiling point below 18°C at atmospheric pressure. The liquid propellant may be any propellant known to be suitable for medicinal administration and may comprise one or more C_1-C_6-alkyl hydrocarbons or halogenated C_1-C_6-alkyl hydrocarbons or mixtures thereof; chlorinated and flourinated C_1-C_6-alkyl hydrocarbons are especially preferred. Generally, the propellant constitutes 45 to 99.9% w/w of the formulation whilst the active ingredient constitutes 1 ppm to 0.1% w/w, of the formulation.

In addition to the aforementioned ingredients, the formulations of this invention may include one or more additional ingredients such as diluents, buffers, flavouring agents, binders, surface active agents, thickeners, lubricants, preservatives, e.g. methyl hydroxybenzoate (including anti-oxidants), emulsifying agents and the like.

The compositions may further contain other therapeutically active compounds usually applied in the treatment of the above mentioned pathological conditions.

The present invention further concerns a method for treating patients suffering from one of the above pathological conditions, said method consisting of administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of one or more compounds of formula I, alone or in combination with one or more other therapeutically active compounds usually applied in the treatment of said pathological conditions. The treatment with the present compounds and/or with further therap utically active compounds may be simultaneous or with intervals.

In the treatment of systemic disorders daily doses of from 0.05-100 µg, preferably from 0.1-50 µg, of a compound

of formula I are administered. In the topical treatm nt of dermatological disorders, ointments, cr ams or lotions containing from 0.1-100 µg/g, and preferably from 1-10 µg/g, of a compound of formula I are administered. The oral compositions are formulated, preferably as tablets, capsules, or drops, containing from 0.025-100 µg, preferably from 0.05-50 µg, of a compound of formula I, per dosage unit.

The invention will now be further described in the following non-limiting Preparations and Examples:

Preparations and Examples

General

The exemplified compounds I are listed in Table 4. The intermediates of Schemes 1-6 referred to in the Preparations are to be identified by numbers with the corresponding formulae in Table 3. These are used to illustrate typical syntheses of the exemplified compounds I.

The compound of Example 19 (not listed in Table 4) corresponds to compound 122 in which the hydroxyl group at the starred carbon atom of formula I is replaced by a hydrogen atom.

For nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (300 MHz) chemical shift values (δ) are quoted for deuteriochloroform solutions relative to internal tetramethylsilane (δ = 0) or chloroform (δ = 7.25). The value for a multiplet, either defined (doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q)) or not (m) at the approximate mid point is given unless a range is quoted (s = singlet, b = broad). Coupling constants (J) are given in Hertz, and are sometimes approximated to the nearest unit.

Ether is diethyl ether, and was dried over sodium. THF was dried over sodium-benzophenone. Petroleum ether refers to the pentane fraction. Reactions were run at room temperature unless otherwise noted. The work-up procedure referred to involves dilution with the specified solvent (oth rwise the organic reaction solvent), extraction with wat r and then brine, drying over anhydrous $MgSO_4$, and concentration in vacuo to give a residue. Chromatography

was perform d on silica gel.

Table 3: Compounds of Schemes 2-6 which are Intermediates in the Preparation of Compounds I of Scheme 6

Compound Number (R=j or k)	Type	Scheme	x	m±	R^1	R^2	R^5
101j	II	2	-	-	-	.$CHCH_2CH_2$	-
102j, 103j, 102k, 103k	III	2, 2, 6, 6	-	-	H	.$CHCH_2CH_2$	-
104j, 105j, 104k, 105k	IV	2, 2, 6, 6	0	-	.$(CH_2)_2CMe_2$ (OSiMe$_3$)	-	-
106j, 106k	V	3, 6	-	3	Me	Me	$SiMe_3$
107j, 107k	V	3, 6	-	4	Et	Et	$SiMe_3$
108j, 108k	V	3, 6	-	5	Me	Me	$SiMe_3$
109j, 109k	VIIa	4, 6	-	2	Et	Et	H
110j, 110k	VIIb	4, 6	-	2	Et	Et	H

Table 3 (continued):

Compound Number (R=j or k)	Type	Scheme	x	m‡	R^1	R^2	R^5
111j, 111k	III	1,2 or 6	-	-	H	H	-
112j, 113j	IV	2	O	-	Me	-	-
112k, 113k	IV	6	O	-	Me	-	-
114j, 115j, 114k, 115k	IV	2, 2, 6, 6	O	-	$.(CH_2)_4CMe_2$ | $OSiMe_3$	-	-
116j, 116k	VIIa	4 or 6	-	[(S)-CH(Me)]	Me	Me	H
117j, 117k	VIIb	4 or 6	-	[(S)-CH(Me)]	Me	Me	H
118j, 118k	VIIa	4 or 6	-	[(R)-CH(Me)]	Me	Me	H
119j, 119k	VIIb	4 or 6	-	[(R)-CH(Me)]	Me	Me	H

‡ Note as for Table 1

NB (i) Where identical descriptions for two numbered compounds are given (e.g. 102j and 103j) the compounds ar distinguished only in their configuration at the starred carbon atom. These configurations give rise to two series of compounds, referred to as "isomer A" and "isomer B" in the Preparations and Examples.

(ii) Where a hydroxyl group is present in R^1, R^2 or one of the "°" carbons of formula I, then this may optionally be protected in the corresponding intermediates (e.g. 104 and 105).

Table 4: Exemplified Compounds I

Compound Number	m‡	n	R^1	R^2
120, 121	0	1*	H	-CHCH$_2$CH$_2$
122	3	0	Me	Me
123	4	0	Et	Et
124	2	1*	Et	Et
125	2	1+	Et	Et
126	1	1*	H	H
127, 128	0	0	Me	H
129, 130	0	0	$(CH_2)_2CMe_2$ | OH	H
131, 132	0	0	$(CH_2)_4CMe_2$ | OH	H
133	5	0	Me	Me
134, 135	1 [(S)-CH(Me)]	1* / 1+	Me	Me
136, 137	1 [(R)-CH(Me)]	1* / 1+	Me	Me

Notes as for Table 3;

* 22(E);

+ 22(Z) (The carbon in the side chain connected to C-20 apart from the methyl group is C-22)

Preparation 1: 4-Bromo-2-methyl-2-trimethylsilyl-oxybutane (Compound 9)

To a stirred, ice-cooled solution of ethyl 3-bromo-propionate (G, y=1) (15.0 ml) in dried ether (100 ml) was added dropwise over 1 hour a filtered solution of Grignard reagent, prepared from magnesium (10 g) and methyl iodide (25 ml) in dried ether (200 ml). After a further 30 minutes on the ice bath, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 30 minutes before being poured onto a stirred, ice-cooled solution of ammonium chloride (30 g) in water (200 ml). After the vigorous reaction had subsided, the ether layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with more ether. The combined ether layers were washed consecutively with water and brine, dried, and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude intermediate carbinol H (y = 1, R^1 = R^2 = Me) as a pale yellow oil. This was dissolved in dichloromethane (130 ml) and triethylamine (40 ml) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (0.2 g) added. The stirred solution was ice-cooled during the addition of trimethylsilyl chloride (27 ml) dropwise over 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 2 hours before being partitioned between ether (500 ml) and water (500 ml). The ether layer was washed four times with water, once with brine, and dried. After removing the solvent in vacuo, the residue was distilled to give a product, b.p. 75-77°C/11 mmHg. A portion (5 g) of the product was purified by chromatography (150 g silica gel; 1% ether in petroleum ether as eluant) and redistilled to give the pure bromide (9) as an oil, δ (300 MHz) 0.10 (9 H, s), 1.23 (6 H, s), 2.02 (2 H, m) and 3.44 (2 H, m).

Preparation 2 3-Hydroxy-3-methylbutyl phenyl sulphone (Compound 21)

To a solution of 4-bromo-2-m thyl-2-trim thyl-silyloxybutane (9) (12 g) in m thanol (55 ml) at room temp rature was add d ethanolic hydrogen chloride (ca. 1 M, 0.2 ml). After 10 minutes th solution was concentrat d in

vacuo (at room temperature) to constant weight. The residue was tak n up in chloroform and reconcentrated to constant weight to give 4-bromo-2-methyl-2-butanol (H, y = 1, R^1 = R^2 = Me) as a chromatographically homogenous oil. The product was dissolved in THF (10 ml) and added to a premixed, stirred solution of potassium tert-butoxide (3.7 g) and thiophenol (3.6 ml) in N,N-dimethylformamide (50 ml) at room temperature. After a few minutes a precipitate started forming, and after 30 minutes the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate (300 ml) and water (200 ml). The organic layer was washed consecutively with 2 N sodium hydroxide solution, water and brine. Drying and concentration in vacuo gave 3-hydroxy-3-methylbutyl phenyl sulphide as a chromatographically homogenous oil. This was dissolved in methanol (60 ml), and to the stirred solution was added sodium hydrogen carbonate (4.7 g), aqueous sodium tungstate solution (2%, 5 ml) and hydrogen peroxide (100 vol, 11.8 ml). The initial exothermic reaction which ensued was checked by momentary ice-cooling. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 50°C for 1 hour. After cooling, the mixture was partitioned between dichloromethane (200 ml) and water. The aqueous layer was extracted with more dichloromethane, and the combined dichloromethane layers were washed with water, brine, and dried. Concentration in vacuo gave a crude product which was purified by chromatography (150 g silica gel; ether as eluant) to give the sulphone (21) as a viscous oil, δ (300 MHz) 1.22 (6H, s), 1.64 (1H, bs), 1.88 (2H, m), 3.25 (2H, m), 7.55-7.70 (3H, m), 7.93 (2H, m).

Preparation 3: 4-Hydroxy-4-ethylhexyl phenyl-sulphone (Compound 23)

The compound was prepared using the procedure of Preparation 2, except using 6-bromo-3-methyl-3-trimethyl-silyloxyhexane (compound 14) as starting material, via the corresponding intermediates 6-bromo-3-m thyl-3-hexanol (H, y = 2, R^1 = R^2 = Et) and 4-hydroxy-4-ethylhexyl phenyl sulphide. 23; δ (300 MHz) 0.82 (6H, t, J 7.5), 1.31 (1H,

s), 1.43 (4H, q, J 7.5), 1.48 (2H, m), 1.74 (2H, m), 3.13 (2H, m), 7.57 (2H, m), 7.66 (1H, m) and 7.92 (2H, m).

Preparation 4: Compound 26

The compound was prepared from 1-p-toluenesulphonyloxy-2(S),3-dimethyl-3-hydroxybutane (J. Org. Chem. 53, 3457-3465 (1988)) by tosylate exchange with LiBr followed by trimethylsilylation using a procedure analogous to the relevant section of Preparation 5 of our international patent application No. PCT/DK89/00079, international filing date 7th April, 1989.

Preparation 5: Compound 27

The compound was prepared analogously to Compound 26 (Preparation 4), from 1-p-toluenesulphonyloxy-2(R),3-dimethyl-3-hydroxybutane. This compound was prepared analogously to the 2(S)-isomer as described in J. Org. Chem. 53, 3457-3465 (1988), but using methyl (S)-(+)-3-hydroxy--2-methylpropionate as starting material instead of the (R)-(-)-isomer.

Preparation 6: Compound 29

The compound was prepared analogously to Compound 28 as described in J. Org. Chem. 53, 3457-3465 (1988), but using methyl (S)-(+)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate as starting material instead of the (R)-(-)-isomer. M.p. 67-68°C, $[\alpha]_D$ -35° (c 1, $CHCl_3$).

All other compounds of Table 1, except compound 28 (prepared as described in J. Org. Chem. 53, 3457-3465 (1988)), were prepared as described in international patent application No. PCT/DK89/00079, international filing date 7th April, 1989.

As indicated in M.J. Calverley, Tetrahedron 43, 4609 (1987), Compound 1j was prepared by bas -catalysed equilibration of its C-20 pimer and separat d by chromatography (5% Et_2O in petroleum ether as eluant). The compound has now been obtained crystalline (from

Et_2O-MeOH).

Preparation 7a: Compound 31b

The compound was prepared as described for the corresponding compound 31a [M.J. Calverley, Tetrahedron 43, 4609 (1987)] except using cyclobutyl methyl ketone instead of cyclopropyl methyl ketone. 31b: δ (300 MHz) 1.70-2.00 (2H, m), 2.05-2.35 (4H, m), 3.21 (1H, m), 3.66 (1H, d, J 26), 7.4-7.7 (15H, m).

Preparation 7b: Compound 32

The compound was prepared as described for the corresponding compound 31a [M.J. Calverley, Tetrahedron 43, 4609 (1987)] except using 1-chlorocyclopropyl methyl ketone instead of cyclopropyl methyl ketone. 32: δ (300 MHz) 1.11 and 1.57 (each 2H, m), 4.58 (1H, d, J 25), 7.4-7.7 (15H, m).

Preparation 8: Compound 33

This compound was prepared using a procedure analogous to that described for the preparation of the correspondng compound 30a (J. Org. Chem., 1982, 47, 2163), except using 1-fluorocyclopropyl methyl ketone as starting material. 33; b.p. 90-93°C/0.2 mmHg, δ (inter alia) 3.47 (1H, J 3.7 and 22.6).

Preparation 9 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethyl-silyloxy-20(R)-hydroxymethyl-9,10-secopregna-5(E),7(E),10(19)-triene

A stirred, ice-cooled solution of the aldehyde 1j (5 g) in THF (20 ml) and ethanol (70 ml) was treated with sodium borohydride (0.35 g). After 10 minutes the reaction mixture was partitioned between ethylacetate and water, and the organic layer was washed with brine and dried. Concentration in vacuo gave the title compound, δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, bs), 0.56 (3H, s), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.96 (3H, d, J 7), 1.1-2.1 (15H, m), 2.31 (1H, bd), 2.55 (1H, dd, J 14 and 5), 2.86 (1H, bd), 3.48 (1H, dd, J 10 and

7), 3.71 (1H, dd, J 11 and 4), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, bs), 4.98 (1H, bs), 5.82 (1H, d, J 11.5), and 6.44 (1H, d, J 11.5).

Preparation 10 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-p-toluenesulphonyloxymethyl-9,10-secopregna-5(E),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 3j)

The compound from Preparation 9, 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-hydroxymethyl-9,10-secopregna--5(E),7(E),10(19)-triene (5 g) was dissolved in dichloromethane (25 ml) and pyridine (3 ml), and the solution was stirred and ice-cooled during the addition of p-toluenesulphonyl chloride (2.5 g). The reaction mixture was allowed to stand at 5°C overnight before being partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic layer was washed consecutively with saturated copper sulphate solution (twice), water, 5% sodium hydrogen carbonate solution, and brine, and then dried and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by chromatography (200 g silica gel; 5% ether in petroleum ether as eluant) to give title compound, δ (300 MHz) 0.035 (3H, s), 0.044 (3H, s), 0.051 (3H, s), 0.056 (3H, s), 0.45 (3H, s), 0.85 (9H, s), 0.88 (9H, s), 0.89 (3H, d, J 6), 1.15-2.05 (14H, m), 2.28 (1H, bd), 2.44 (3H, s), 2.52 (1H, dd, J 14 and 5), 2.84 (1H, bd), 3.81 (1H, m), 4.11 (1H, m), 4.20 (1H, m), 4.51 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, bs), 4.97 (1H, bs), 5.79 (1H, d, J 11), 6.42 (1H, d, J 11), 7.33 (2H, bd) 7.78 (2H, bd).

Preparation 11: 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-formyl-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 1k)

The compound was prepared analogously to Procedure 4 (see below) in which the starting material was 1j. 5% Ether in petroleum ether was used as eluant. 1k δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, bs), 0.52 (3H, s), 0.86 (18H, s), 1.03 (3H, d, J 6), 1.1-2.5 (16H, m), 2.82 (1H, bd), 4.17 (1H, m), 4.36 (1H,

m), 4.84 (1H, bd), 5.16 (1H, m), 6.00 and 6.20 (each 1H, d, J 11), and 9.56 (1H, d, J 8).

Procedure 1a Reaction of aldehyde 1 with stable ylide C'(Z = Ph_3P^+-CH^-) to give II (Scheme 2)

A stirred mixture of 1 and a molar excess of C' in toluene (10 ml per gram 1) was heated under reflux under an N_2 atmosphere until a reasonable or complete conversion of 1 was obtained (4 to 16 hours). After cooling, the mixture was filtered, and the filtrate concentrated and purified by chromatography (5 - 10% ether in petroleum ether for the examples of Table 2) to give II.

Compound 101j (obtained thus from 1j and 31a) is described in Tetrahedron 43, 4609 (1987).

Procedure 1b Reaction of aldehyde 1 with C'(W')- formed in situ from side chain fragment C(W)

An equivalent amount of 1 (dissolved in THF) was added to an ice-cooled solution of C'(W') in THF [prepared by adding base (BuLi or NaH, 1 equivalent) to a solution of C or W (2 equivalents base for W with R^5 = H)]. After stirring overnight, the reaction mixture was worked up (ether), and the residue purified by chromatography to give the compound II (from C) or VII (from W).

Preparation 12 Compounds 102j and 103j

Sodium borohydride (0.29 g) was added to an ice-cooled, stirred solution of 101j (2.5 g) in tetrahydrofuran (8 ml) and 0.4 M $CeCl_3.7H_2O$ in ethanol (11.5 ml). Methanol (6 ml) was added over 10 minutes, and after stirring for a further 20 minutes the mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic layer was washed with water, dried and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by chromatography (silica gel; toluene:acetone 97:3 as eluant) to give the title com-

pounds. The first eluted product was isomer A (102j); δ (100 MHz) 0.06 (12H, s), 0.53 (3H, s), 0.13-0.68 (4H, m), 0.87 (9H, s), 0.90 (9H, s), additionally 0.70-2.70 (21H, m), 2.85 (1H, m), 3.44 (1H, m), 4.20 (1H, m), 4.51 (1H, m), 4.95 (2H, m), 5.52 (2H, m), 5.80 (1H, d, J 12 and 6.45 (1H, d, J 12); λ_{max} 270 nm (ε = 24900) (crystallized from methanol).

The second eluted product was isomer B (103j). M.p. 104-5°C (from methanol); δ (100 MHz) 0.06 (12H, s), 0.53 (3H, s), 0.15-0.65 (4H, m), 0.87 (9H, s), 0.90 (9H, s), additionally 0.67-2.70 (21H, m), 2.85 (1H, m), 3.40 (2H, m), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.95 (2H, m), 5.50 (2H, m), 5.80 (1H, d, J 12 and 6.45 (1H, d, J 12); λ_{max} 270 nm (ε = 24500).

Procedure 2 Reaction of aldehyde 1 or 2 with (a) R^1MgBr (R^1MgI) or (b) R^1Li to give IV (Scheme 2)

(a) An aliquot (2 ml) of the Grignard reagent obtained from R^1Br (R^1I) (20 mmol) (in the event that R^1 contains a hydroxy group in the compound I, this may be protected for example as a trimethylsilyl ether for the reaction of Procedure 2. The unmasking of this hydroxyl then occurs during the reaction of Procedure 5), and magnesium (20 mmol) in dry THF (15 ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 1 or 2 (1 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml) at 0°C. After 30 min., the reaction mixture was partitioned between water and ether, and the ether layer was washed with brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the residue by chromatography gave IV.

(b) The organo-lithium reagent (1.5 M in ether or hexanes, 1 ml) was substituted for the aliquot of Grignard reagent in (a), running the reaction at -40°C instead of 0°C.

Preparation 13 Compounds 104j and 105j

Using Procedure 2a, starting with compounds 9 and 1j, and using 5% ethyl ac tate in petroleum ether for the chromatography, the title compounds as were obtained as

isomer A (less polar isomer) and B, r spectiv ly.

Procedure 2c Conversion of tosylate 3 to V Scheme 3)

This procedure is illustrated in Preparations 14 and 51.

Preparation 14 Compound 106j

The stirred Grignard reagent obtained from Compound 9 (5.0 g) and magnesium (0.53 g) in dry THF (15 ml) was treated at 0°C with a solution of lithium chloride (68 mg) and anhydrous cupric chloride (108 mg) in dry THF (8 ml) followed by a solution of Compound 3j (1.0 g) in dry THF (5 ml). After 5 hours, the reaction mixture was partitioned between water and ether, and the ether layer was washed with brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the residue by chromatography (150 g silica gel, petroleum ether to 2% ether in petroleum ether as eluant) followed by crystallisation from ether-methanol gave the title compound, δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, bs), 0.09 (9H, s), 0.54 (3H, s), 0.85 (3H, d, J 6), 0.85 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 1.19 (6H, s), additionally 1.2-2.05 (20H, m), 2.30 (1H, bd), 2.55 (1H, dd), 2.86 (1H, bd), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, bs), 4.98 (1H, bs), 5.82 (1H, d, J 11.6), 6.45 (1H,d, J 11.6).

Preparation 15 Compound 107j

The compound was prepared using the method of Preparation 14, except that the Grignard reagent was prepared from Compound 14 (5.9 g).
107j: δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, bs), 0.08 (9H, s), 0.53 (3H, s), 0.80 (9H, m), 0.86 (9H, bs), 0.89 (9H, bs), [1.05-2.05 (26H, m, including 1.43 (4H, q)], 2.30 (1H, m), 2.56 (1H, m), 2.86 (1H, m), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, m), 4.98 (1H, m), 5.82 (1H, d, J 11.5), 6.45 (1H, d, J 11.5).

Preparation 16 Compound 108j

The compound was prepar d using the method of

Preparation 14, except that th Grignard reagent was prepared from Compound 16 (5.5 g).

Procedure 3 Preparation of Compounds VII from Aldehyde (1) and Side Chain Fragment B (Scheme 4)

A solution of lithium di-iso-propylamide (0.4 M in THF-hexanes, 3:1) was added dropwise via a syringe (10 minutes) to a solution of the side chain fragment B in dry THF (8 ml), stirred at -25°C under nitrogen. The resulting yellow solution was then cooled to -40°C, and a solution of the aldehyde (1) (1.21 g) in dry THF (8 ml) was added dropwise (5 minutes). After stirring for 30 minutes, benzoyl chloride (0.6 ml) was added dropwise, and the mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C for a further 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was treated with ether (10 ml) and water (1 ml) and partitioned between ethyl acetate (100 ml) and water (50 ml). The organic layer was washed with brine, dried, and concentrated in vacuo to give a crude oil containing compound VI (Y = PhC(O)) as a mixture of diastereoisomers. This was dissolved in ethyl acetate (5 ml) and diluted with methanol (50 ml, saturated with and containing suspended disodium hydrogen phosphate). To the ice-cooled mixture was added sodium amalgam (ca. 5% Na, 15 g), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 5°C under nitrogen for 15 hours. The mixture was then partitioned between ethyl acetate (200 ml) and water (200 ml) (decanting from the mercury), and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the residue by chromatography gave VII.

Preparation 17 Compounds 109j and 110j

This compound was prepared from 1j using Procedure 3 in which the side chain fragment B was compound 23 (0.66 g) and 12 ml of the lithium di-iso-propylamide solution was used. The int rm diat VIj has R^5 = OH. The chromatography was performed using 10% ethyl acetate in petroleum ether as eluant. The major product (more polar) 109j was

recrystallized from Et_2O-MeOH. 109j; δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, bs), 0.50 (3H, s), 0.85 (6H, t, J 7.5), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.90 (3H, d, J 6.6), 1.1-2.1 (23H, m), 2.30 (1H, bd, J 14), 2.55 (1H, dd, J 14 and 5), 2.86 (1H, bd, J 12), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.53 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, bs), 4.98 (1H, bs), 5.30 (2H, m), 5.80 (1H, d, J 12), and 6.45 (1H, d, J 12); λ_{max} 270 nm. 110j; δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, bs), 0.47 (3H, s), 0.85 (6H, t), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.9 (3H, d), 1.1-2.1 (22H, m), 2.30 (1H, m), 2.35 (1H, m), 2.55 (1H, dd, J 14 and 5), 2.86 (1H, bd, J 12), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.53 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, bs), 4.98 (1H, bs), 5.2 (2H, m), 5.80 (1H, d, J 12), and 6.45 (1H, d, J 12); λ_{max} 270 nm.

Procedure 4 Preparation of Compound XIV from the Corresponding Compound XIII (Scheme 6)

A mixture of anthracene (0.10 g), triethylamine (20 mg), and the compound XIII (0.20 g) in toluene (15 ml), stirred under an atmosphere of nitrogen in a Pyrex flask immersed in a water bath at 20°C, was illuminated with radiation from a high pressure Hg lamp (type: Hanau TQ 718Z2) for 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give a residue. This was purified by chromatography (30 g silica gel) to give XIV.

Preparation 18 Compound 102k

The compound was prepared using Procedure 4 in which starting material XIII was compound 102j. (Eluant: toluene-acetone, 97:3) 102k; δ (300 MHz) 0.06 (12H, s), 0.15-0.38 (2H, m), 0.52 (3H, s), 0.40-0.57 (2H, m), 0.87 (18H, s), 0.94 (3H, d, J 7), 0.65-2.15 (16H, m), 2,20 (1H, dd), 2.44 (1H, dd), 2.80 (1H, bd), 3.44 (1H, t), 4.18 (1H, m), 4.36 (1H, m), 4.85 (1H, d, J 2), 5.17 (1H, m), 5.46 and 5.58 (each 1H, dd, J 16 and 9), 6.00 (1H, d, J 11), 6.22 (1H, d, J 11); λ_{max} 265 nm.

Preparation 19 Compound 103k

The compound was prepared using Procedure 4 in which starting material XIII was compound 103j. (Eluant: toluene-acetone, 97:3) 103k; δ (300 MHz) 0.06 (12H, s), 0.15-0.38 (2H, m), 0.52 (3H, s), 0.40-0.57 (2H, m), 0.87 (18H, s), 0.94 (3H, d, J 7), 0.65-2.15 (16H, m), 2,20 (1H, dd), 2.44 (1H, dd), 2.80 (1H, bd), 3.38 (1H, t), 4.18 (1H, m), 4.36 (1H, m), 4.85 (1H, d, J 2), 5.17 (1H, m), 5.48 (2H, m), 6.00 (1H, d, J 11), 6.22 (1H, d, J 11); λ_{max} 265 nm.

Preparation 20 Compound 106k

The compound was prepared using Procedure 4 in which starting material XIII was compound 106j. (Eluant: petroleum ether to 2% ether in petroleum ether) 106k; δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, bs), 0.09 (9H, s), 0.52 (3H, s), 0.83 (3H, d, J 6), 0.88 (18H, s), 1.1-2.05 (26H, m, including 1.19 (6H, s)), 2.20 (1H, dd, J 13 and 7), 2.43 (1H, dd, J 13 and 4), 2.81 (1H, m) 4.18 (1H, m), 4.36 (1H, m), 4.86 (1H, bd), 5.17 (1H, bd), 6.01 (1H, d, J 11), 6.22 (1H, d, J 11); λ_{max} 265 nm.

Preparation 21 Compound 107k

The compound was prepared using Procedure 4 in which starting material XIII was compound 107j. (Eluant: petroleum ether to 2% ether in petroleum ether) 107k; δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12 H, bs), 0.08 (9H, s), 0.52 (3H, s), 0.80 (9H, m), 0.87 (18H, s), 1.05-2.0 (26H, m, including 1.43 (4H, q), 2.21 (1H, dd), 2.43 (1H, bd), 2.82 (1H, bd), 4.16 (1H, m), 4.37 (1H, m), 4.85 (1H, m), 5.17 (1H, m), 6.01 (1H, d, J 11), 6.23 (1H, d, J 11); λ_{max} 265 nm.

Preparation 22: Compound 109k

The compound was prepared using Procedure 4 in which starting material XIII was compound 109j. (Eluant: 20% ether in petroleum ether).

Preparation 23: Compound 5

A stirred solution of 1j (3.9 g), and methoxy-

carbonylmethyl ne-triphenylphosphorane (4.6 g) in toluene (40 ml) was h ated under reflux for 3 hours. The r action mixture was cooled, filter d, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the residue by chromatography (200 g silica gel; 5% ether in petroleum ether as eluant) followed by recrystalization from ether-methanol gave the title compound as needles; δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, m), 0.49 (3H, s), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 1.00 (3H, d), 1.03-2.05 (13H, m), 2.24 (1H, m), 2.31 (1H, bd), 2.54 (1H, dd), 2.85 (1H, dd), 3.73 (3H, s), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, m), 4.97 (1H, m), 5.76 (1H, d, J 15.6), 5.80 (1H, d), 6.43 (1H, d), 6.88 (1H, dd, J 15.6 and 9.9).

Preparation 24: Compound 111j

To a stirred solution of 5 (3.3 g) in dry THF (35 ml) at -70°C under N_2 was added di-isobutylaluminium hydride (1 M solution in hexanes (15 ml) for compound 2; 8 ml for compound 3) dropwise. After stirring for 30 minutes, methanol (3 ml) was added dropwise, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature. EtOAc and water were added, and after stirring for an additional 30 minutes, the organic phase was separated, washed with brine, dried and concentrated to give the title compound. δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, m), 0.51 (3H, s), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.94 (3H, d), 1.00-2.20 (15H, m), 2.30 (1H, bd), 2.55 (1H, dd), 2.85 (1H, bd), 4.08 (2H, bs), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, m), 4.97 (1H, m), 5.56 (2H, m), 5.82 (1H, d), 6.44 (1H, d).

Preparation 25: Compound 2j

Pyridinium dichromate (0.5 g) was added at room temperature to a stirred solution of compound 111j (0.53 g) in dichloromethane (10 ml). After stirring for 3 hours the mixture was diluted with ether and filtered. The filtrate was concentrat d in vacuo and purified by chromatography (silica gel, hexane:ether 4:1 as eluant) to give 2j; δ (300 MHz) 0.06 (12H, m), 0.50 (3H, s), 0.85 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 1.05 (3H, d), 1.06-2.10 (13H, m), 2.30 (1H, bd), 2.40

(1H, m), 2.54 (1H, dd), 2.86 (1H, bd), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, m), 4.97 (1H, m), 5.81 (1H, d), 6.06 (1H, dd, J 15.6 and 7.9), 6.43 (1H, d), 6.76 (1H, dd, J 15.6 and 9.8), 9.52 (1H, d, J 7.9).

Preparation 26 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-phenylthiomethyl--9,10-secopregna-5(E),7(E),10(19)--triene

A solution of potassium thiophenoxide in DMF [prepared by adding potassium tert-butoxide (0.35 g) to thiophenol (0.35 g) dissolved in DMF (5 ml)] was added to a solution of 3j (1 g) in THF (5 ml). After 30 minutes, the reaction mixture was worked up (ether) and purified by chromatography (2% ether in petroleum ether as eluant) to give the title compound. δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, m), 0.51 (3H, s), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 1.04 (3H, d), 1.20-2.0 (13H, m), 2.04 (1H, bt), 2.30 (1H, bd), 2.54 (1H, dd), 2.75 (1H, dd), 2.85 (1H, bd), 3.24 (1H, dd), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, bs), 4.97 (1H, bs), 5.71 (1H, d), 6.44 (1H, d), 7.10-7.4 (5H, m).

Preparation 27 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-phenylsulphonylmethyl--9,10-secopregna-5(E),7(E),10(19)--triene (Compound 4j)

To a solution of 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-phenylthiomethyl-9,10-secopregna-5(E),7(E),-10(19)-triene (Preparation 26) (0.9 g) in ethyl acetate (8 ml) and ethanol (15 ml) was added sodium hydrogen carbonate (0.5 g), aqueous sodium tungstate (3%, 0.5 ml) and hydrogen peroxide (30%, 2 ml). The stirred mixture was heated at 60°C for 8 hours, cooled and worked-up (ethyl acetate). Purification by chromatography (40% ether in petroleum ether as eluant) gave 4j. δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, m), 0.36 (3H, s), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 1.10 (3H, d), 1.5-2.15 (m, 13H), 2.29 (1H, bd), 2.52 (1H, dd), 2.83 (1H, bd), 2.86 (1H, dd), 3.43 (1H, dd), 4.20 (1H, m), 4.51 (1H, m), 4.93

(1H, m), 4.96 (1H, m), 5.78 (1H, d), 6.41 (1H, d), 7.57 (3H, m), 7.92 (2H, m).

Preparation 28, 29, and 30 Compounds 2k, 3k, and 4j

Each compound was prepared analogously to Procedure 4 in which the starting material was the corresponding compound j. The eluant used was that used in the purification of the compound j.

Preparation 31: Compounds 112j and 113j

Using Procedure 2(b) as follows: To a solution of Compound 1j (0.8 g) in dry THF (7 ml), cooled to -40°C and stirred under N_2, was added dropwise a solution of methyl-lithium (1.5 M in ether, 1.2 ml). After 15 minutes, ether (50 ml) was added and the reaction mixture was worked up. The residue was purified by chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in petroleum ether as eluant) to give the less polar isomer (isomer A) 112j; NMR: δ = 0.05 (m, 12H), 0.54 (s, 3H), 0.85 (d, 3H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 1.13 (d, 3H, J = 6.3), 1.00-2.10 (m, 15H), 2.31 (bd, 1H), 2.54 (dd, 1H), 2.88 (bd, 1H), 4.06 (m, 1H), 4.21 (m, 1H), 4.52 (m, 1H), 4.93 (m, 1H), 4.98 (m, 1H), 5.82 (d, 1H, J = 11.4), 6.44 (d, 1H, J = 11.4), and the more polar isomer 113j (isomer B); NMR: δ = 0.05 (m, 12H), 0.56 (s, 3H), 0.86 (d, 3H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 1.07 (d, 3H, J = 6.3), 1.00-2.10 (m, 15H), 2.31 (bd, 1H), 2.54 (dd, 1H), 2.88 (bd, 1H), 4.10 (m, 1H), 4.21 (m, 1H), 4.52 (m, 1H), 4.93 (m, 1H), 4.98 (m, 1H), 5.82 (d, 1H, J = 11.4), 6.44 (d, 1H, J = 11.4).

Preparation 32 Compound 114j and 115j

Using Procedure 2a, starting with compounds 19 and 1j, and using 5% ethyl acetate in petroleum ether as eluant for the chromatography, the titl compounds were obtained. Major isomer (114j): δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, m), 0.08 (9H, s), 0.54 (3H, s), 0.83 (3H, d), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 1.18 (6H, s), 1.00-2.12 (23H, m), 2.31 (1H, bd), 2.55 (1H,

dd) 2.88 (1H, bd), 3.85 (1H, m), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.53 (1H, m), 4.93 (1H, m), 4.98 (1H, m), 5.83 (1H, d), and 6.45 (1H, m). The minor isomer (115j) was the more polar isomer, δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Preparation 33 Compounds 116j and 117j

These compounds were prepared from 1j using procedure 3 in which the side chain fragment B was compound 29 (0.6 g) and 12 ml of the lithium di-iso-propylamide solution was used. The intermediate VIj has R^5 = OH. The chromatography was performed using 10% ethyl acetate in petroleum ether as eluant to give the less polar 22Z isomer (117j); δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, m), 0.47 (3H, s), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.91 (3H, d), 0.97 (3H, d), 1.15 (3H, s), 1.18 (3H, s), 1.07-2.20 (14H, m), 2.31 (1H, bd), 2.39 (1H, m), 2.54 (2H, m), 2.85 (1H, bd), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.92 (1H, m), 4.97 (1H, m), 5.07 (1H, t, J 10.9), 5.35 (1H, t, J 10.9), 5.81 (1H, d), and 6.45 (1H, d); λ_{max} 270 nm; and the more polar 22E isomer (116j); δ (300 MHz) 0.05 (12H, m), 0.51 (3H, s), 0.86 (9H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.93 (3H, d), 0.99 (3H, d), 1.13 (3H, s), 1.16 (3H, s), 1.05-2.22 (16H, m), 2.30 (1H, bd), 2.54 (1H, dd), 2.85 (1H, bd), 4.21 (1H, m), 4.52 (1H, m), 4.92 (1H, m), 4.97 (1H, m), 5.40 (2H, m), 5.81 (1H, d), and 6.44 (1H, d).

Preparation 34 Compounds 118j and 119j

This compound was prepared from 1j using procedure 3 in which the side chain fragment B was compound 28 (0.6 g) and 12 ml of the lithium di-iso-propylamide solution was used. The intermediate VIj has R^5 = OH. The chromatography was performed using 10% ethyl acetate in petroleum ether as eluant to give the 22Z isomer (119j) and the 22E isomer (118j).

Preparation 35-47 Compounds 104k, 105k, 108k, 110k, 111k, 112k, 113k, 114k, 115k, 116k, 117k, 118k and 119k

Each compound was pr pared using Procedure 4 in which

th starting material XIII was the corresponding compound j. (Eluant: the same eluant as used in the pr paration of the corresponding compound j).

Preparation 48 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-p-toluenesulphonyloxymethyl-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 3k)

The compound was prepared analogously to Procedure 4 in which the starting material was 3j. 5% Ether in petroleum ether was used as eluant.

Preparation 49 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-phenylsulphonylmethyl--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene (Compound 4k)

The compound was prepared analogously to Procedure 4 in which the starting material was 4j. 40% Ether in petroleum ether was used as eluant.

Preparation 50 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-hydroxymethyl--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene

The compound was prepared analogously to Procedure 4 in which the starting material was 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-hydroxymethyl-9,10-secopregna--5(E),7(E),10(19)-triene (Preparation 9). 40% Ether in petroleum ether was used as eluant.

Preparation 51 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(S)-(4-methyl-1-pentyl)--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene

The stirred Grignard reagent obtained from isoamyl bromide (3.0 g) and magnesium (0.53 g) in dry THF (15 ml) was treated at 0°C with a solution of lithium chloride (68 mg) and anhydrous cupric chloride (108 mg) in dry THF (8

ml) followed by a solution of Compound 3k (1.0 g) in dry THF (5 ml). After 5 hours, the reaction mixtur was partitioned between water and ether, and the ether layer was washed with brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the residue by chromatography (150 g silica gel, petroleum ether to 2% ether in petroleum ether as eluant) gave the title compound; δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Procedure 5 Preparation of Compound I from the Corresponding Compound XIV (Scheme 6)

A solution of the compound XIV (0.2 g) and tetra-n-butylammonium fluoride trihydrate (0.4 g) in THF (10 ml) was heated at 60°C under an atmosphere of nitrogen for 50 minutes. After cooling, the reaction solution was partitioned between ethyl acetate (40 ml) and 2% sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (30 ml), and the organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography (30 g silica gel, ethyl acetate as eluant) to give I.

The compounds of Examples 1 to 18 were prepared using procedure 5 in which starting material XIV was respectively compounds 102k, 103k, 106k, 107k, 109k, 110k, 111k, 112k, 113k, 104k, 105k, 114k, 115k, 108k, 116k, 117k, 118k, and 119k.

The starting material for Example 19 was the compound of Preparation 51. All exemplified compounds showed λ_{max} (EtOH) 264-265 nm.

Example 1 20(S)-(3'-Cyclopropyl-3'-hydroxyprop--1'(E)-enyl)-1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E), 10(19)--triene (Isomer A) (Compound 120)

δ (300 MHz) 0.15-0.36 (2H, m), 0.40-0.60 (2H, m), 0.51 (3H, s), 0.92 (3H, m, J 6.6), 0.80-2.15 (18H, m), 2.29 (1H, dd), 2.57 (1H, dd), 2.79 (1H, dd), 3.43 (1H, t), 4.20 (1H, m),

4.41 (1H, m), 4.98 (1H, m), 5.31 (1H, m), 5.45 (1H, dd, J 15.5 and 6), 5.56 (1H, dd, J 15.5 and 9), 5.99 (1H, d, J 11), and 6.35 (1H, d, J 11).

Example 2 — 20(S)-(3'-Cyclopropyl-3'-hydroxyprop--1'(E)-enyl)-1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E), 10(19)--triene (Isomer B) (Compound 121)

δ (300 MHz) 0.15-0.40 (2H, m), 0.41-0.60 (2H, m), 0.53 (3H, s), 0.95 (3H, m, J 6.6), 0.80-2.15 (18H, m), 2.31 (1H, dd), 2.60 (1H, dd), 2.81 (1H, dd), 3.40 (1H, m), 4.23 (1H, m), 4.43 (1H, m), 5.00 (1H, m), 5.33 (1H, m), 5.50 (1H, m), 6.01 (1H, d, J 11), and 6.37 (1H, d, J 11).

Example 3 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(4-hydroxy--4-methyl-1-pentyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 122)

δ (300 MHz) 0.53 (3H, s), 0.83 (6H, t, J 6),1.1-2.1 (29H, m, including 1.20 (6H, s)), 2.30 (1H, dd), 2.58 (1H, bd), 2.81 (1H, bd), 4.22 (1H, m), 4.42 (1H, m), 4.99 (1H, bs), 5.32 (1H, bs), 6.00 (1H, d, J 11), 6.36 (1H, d, J 11).

Example 4 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(5-ethyl--5-hydroxy-1-heptyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 123)

δ (300 MHz) 0.54 (3H, s), 0.82 (3H,d), 0.84 (6H, t), 1.0-2.0 [29H, m, including 1.47 (4H, q)], 2.31 (1H, m), 2.59 (1H, bd), 2.83 (1H, bd), 4.23 (1H, m),) 4.43 (1H, m), 5.00 (1H, bs), 5.32 (1H, bs), 6.01 (1H, d, J 11) and 6.38 (1H, d, J 11).

Example 5 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(5-ethyl-5--hydroxy-hept-1(E)-en-1-yl)-9,10--secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 124)

δ (300 MHz) 0.51 (3H, s), 0.85 (6H, t), 0.91 (3H, d),

1.1-2.2 [25H, m, including 1.47 (4H, q)], 2.31 (1H, m), 2.59 (1H, bd), 2.82 (1H, bd), 4.23 (1H, m),) 4.43 (1H, m), 4.99 (1H, bs), 5.30 (2H, m), 5.33 (1H, bs), 6.02 (1H, d, J 11) and 6.37 (1H, d, J 11).

Example 6 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(5-ethyl-5--hydroxy-hept-1(Z)-en-1-yl)-9,10--secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 125)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 7 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(3-hydroxy-prop-1(E)-enyl)-9,10-secopregna--5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 126)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 8 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(1-hydroxy--1-ethyl)-9,10-secopregna--5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Isomer A) (Compound 127)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 9 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(1-hydroxy--1-ethyl)-9,10-secopregna--5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Isomer B) (Compound 128)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 10 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(1,4-dihydroxy-4-methyl-1-pentyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Isomer A) (Compound 129)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 11 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(1,4-dihydroxy-4-methyl-1-pentyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Isomer B) (Compound 130)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 12 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(1,6-dihydroxy-6-methyl-1-heptyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Isomer A) (Compound 131)

δ (300 MHz) 0.55 (3H, s), 0.83 (3H, d), 1.20 (6H, s), 1.20-2.10 (26H, m), 2.31 (1H, dd), 2.57 (1H, dd), 2.83 (1H, dd), 3.84 (1H, m), 4.22 (1H, m), 4.43 (1H, m), 4.99 (1H, bs), 5.33 (1H, bs), 6.02 (1H, d), 6.37 (1H, d).

Example 13 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(1,6-dihydroxy-6-methyl-1-heptyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Isomer B) (Compound 132)

δ (300 MHz) 0.56 (3H, s), 0.85 (3H, d), 1.21 (6H, s), 1.20-2.10 (26H, m), 2.31 (1H, dd), 2.57 (1H, dd), 2.83 (1H, dd), 3.78 (1H, m), 4.22 (1H, m), 4.43 (1H, m), 4.99 (1H, bs), 5.33 (1H, bs), 6.02 (1H, d), 6.37 (1H, d).

Example 14 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(6-hydroxy-6-methyl-1-heptyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 133)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 15 — 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(4-hydroxy-3(S),4-dimethylpent-1(E)-enyl--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene (Compound 134)

δ (300 MHz) 0.50 (3H, s), 0.91 (3H, d), 0.97 (3H, d), 1.13 (3H, s), 1.15 (3H, s), 1.15-2.20 (18H, m), 2.29 (1H, dd), 2.57 (1H, dd), 2.79 (1H, bd), 4.20 (1H, m), 4.40 (1H, m), 4.98 (1H, bs), 5.31 (1H, bs), 5.38 (2H, m), 5.98 (1H, d),

6.35 (1H, d).

Example 16 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(4-hydroxy-3(S),4-dimethylpent-1(Z)-enyl--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene (Compound 135)

δ (300 MHz) 0.36 (3H, s), 0.91 (3H, d), 0.97 (3H, d), 0.97 (3H, d), 1.2-2.65 (20H, m). 2.82 (1H, bd), 4.23 (1H, m), 4.41 (1H, m), 5.00 (1H, s), 5.08 (1H, t), 5.33 (1H, s), 5.36 (1H, t), 6.01 (1H, d), 6.37 (1H, d), 1.15 (3H, s), 1.24 (3H, s).

Example 17 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(4-hydroxy-3(R),4-dimethylpent-1(E)-enyl--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene (Compound 136)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 18 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(4-hydroxy-3(R),4-dimethylpent-1(Z)-enyl--9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene (Compound 137)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 19 1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(4-methyl--1-pentyl-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 138)

δ (300 MHz) in agreement with assigned structure.

Example 20 Dermatological Cream Containing Compound 122

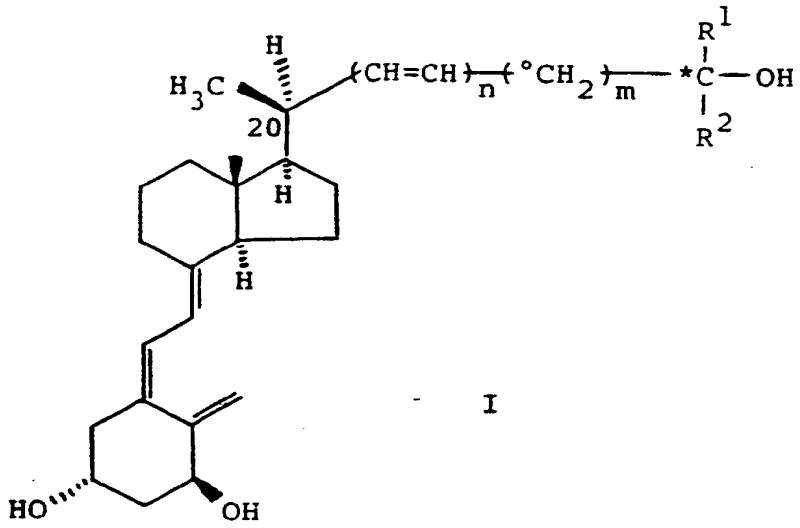
In 1 g almond oil was dissolved 0.1 mg 122. To this solution was added 40 g of mineral oil and 20 g of self-emulsifying beeswax. The mixture was heated to liquify. After th addition of 40 ml hot water, the mixture was mixed well. The resulting cream contains approximately 1 µg of 122 per gram of cream.

Example 21 Capsules containing Compound 122

122 was suspended in arachis oil to a final concentration of 5 µg 122/ml oil. 10 Parts by weight of gelatine, 5 parts by weight glycerine, 0.08 parts by weight potassium sorbate, and 14 parts by weight distilled water were mixed together with heating and formed into soft gelatine capsules. These were then filled each with 100 µl of the 122 in oil suspension, such that each capsule contained 0.5 µg 122.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A compound of the formula I



I

in which formula, n is 0 or 1, m is 0 or an integer from 1 - 7, R^1 and R^2 (which may be the same or different) stand for hydrogen or C_1-C_8-hydrocarbyl, hydrocarbyl indicating the residue after removal of a hydrogen atom from a straight, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon, or, taken together with the carbon bearing the hydroxyl group (starred in formula I), R^1 and R^2 can form a saturated or unsaturated C_3-C_8 carbocyclic ring; in addition, R^1 and/or R^2 and/or one of the m carbons designated by the "°" may be optionally substituted with a hydroxyl group or one or more chlorine or fluorine atom(s); and finally one of the carbons designated "°" may optionally be substituted by one or two C_1-C_2 alkyl group(s); and derivatives of the compounds of formula I in which one or more hydroxy hav be n transformed into -O-acyl or -O-glycosyl or phosphat ester groups; such

masked groups being hydrolyzable in vivo; and other prodrugs thereof.

2. A diastereoisomer of a compound according to claim 1, in pure form; or a mixture of diastereoisomers of a compound according to claim 1.

3. Compounds according to claim 1 which are:

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(4-hydroxy-4-methyl-1-pent--yl)-9,10-secopregna-(5Z),7(E),10(19)-triene

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-1-hept--yl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-hept--1(E)-en-1-yl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene.

4. A method for producing a compound of formula I of claim 1 or an analogue thereof by which:

a) the side chain attached to C-20 (or an alcohol protected form of this) in compound I is elaborated from 1(S),3(R)-bis-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-20(R)-formyl--9,10-secopregna-5(E),7(E),10(19)-triene, or its 5(Z) isomer, either

(i) by reduction to the 20(R)-hydroxymethyl derivative (e.g. with sodium borohydride), followed by conversion of the hydroxyl group to a leaving group (e.g. by reaction with p-toluenesulphonyl chloride and pyridine), and followed by displacement of that leaving group with an organometallic reagent (e.g. $BrMg-(^{\circ}CH_2)_{m-1}-C(O-SiMe_3)R^1R^2$ in the presence of Li_2CuCl_4), or

(ii) by reaction with a Wittig-type reagent (e.g. $Ph_3P^+-CH^--C(O)-R^2$) followed by reaction of the

resulting ketone with an organometallic reagent (e.g. R^1MgBr) or a reducing agent (e.g. $NaBH_4$), or

(iii) by reaction with the carbanion derived from the sulfone $PhS(O_2)CH_2-(^{\circ}CH_2)_m-C(OH)R^1R^2$ by treatment with base (e.g. two equivalents of lithium di-isopropylamide) followed by reductive elimination of the product β-hydroxy-sulphone (e.g. with sodium amalgam) (optionally after derivatisation of the β-hydroxy group e.g. with benzoyl chloride and base), and

b) the compound from step (a) above is optionally (i) separated from diastereoisomers (e.g. by chromatography), (ii) subjected to a triplet-sensitized photoisomerisation to the 5Z isomer, (iii) desilylated e.g. with tetrabutyl-ammonium fluoride, and (iv) otherwise deprotected; the order of these options being arbitrary.

5. Intermediate for the synthesis of compounds of formula I and analogues thereof which is

(i) 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)--formyl-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)--triene, or
the 5(E) or 5(Z) isomer of
(ii) 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)--hydroxymethyl-9,10-secopregna-5,7(E),10(19)--triene,
(iii) 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)-p--toluenesulphonyloxymethyl-9,10-secopregna--5,7(E),10(19)-triene, or
(iv) 1(S),3(R)-bis-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-20(R)--phenylsulphonylmethyl-9,10-secopregna--5,7(E),10(19)-triene.

6. A pharmaceutical composition containing an effective amount of one or more of the compounds of claim 1, together with pharmaceutically acceptabl , non-toxic carriers and/or

auxiliary agents.

7. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6 for topical use containing from 0.1 - 100 µg/g of a compound of formula I.

8. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6 in dosage unit form.

9. A dosage unit according to claim 8 containing from 0.025 - 100 µg for oral and parenteral formulations of a compound of formula I.

10. A method for the treatment and prophylaxis of autoimmune diseases (including diabetes mellitus), hypertension, acne, alopecia, skin ageing (including photo-ageing), inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and asthma, as well as diseases characterized by abnormal cell differentiation and/or cell proliferation, and/or imbalance in the immune system.

11. A method according to claim 10 for the treatment or prophylaxis of cancer.

12. A method according to claim 10 for the treatment or prophylaxis of psoriasis.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/DK 90/00156

I. CLASSIFICATI N OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all)[6]

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

IPC5: C 07 C 401/00, A 61 K 31/59

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched[7]

Classification System	Classification Symbols
IPC5	C 07 C; A 61 K

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in Fields Searched[8]

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT[9]

Category *	Citation of Document,[11] with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages[12]	Relevant to Claim No.[13]
X	WO, A1, 8404527 (WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION) 22 November 1984, see page 26; claim 22 --	1-9
A	J. Org. Chem., Vol. 51, 1986 D. R. Andrews et al.: "Synthesis of 25-Hydroxy- and 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D3 from Vitamin D2 (Calciferol) ", see page 4819 - page 4828 --	5
A	J. Org. Chem., Vol. 53, 1988 A. Kutner et al.: "Novel Convergent Synthesis of Side-Chain-Modified Analogues of 1,25-Dihydroxycholecalciferol and 1,25-Dihydroxyergocalciferol ", see page 3450 - page 3457 --	5

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* Special categories of cited documents: [10]

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step

"Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report
8th October 1990	1990 -10- 11
International Searching Authority	**Signature of Authorized Officer**
SWEDISH PATENT OFFICE	Anna Hedberg

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 1985)

FURTHER INF RMATI N CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

V. [X] OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE [1]

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. [X] Claim numbers 10-12 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

See rule 39.I (IV)-PCT:

Methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy, as well as diagnostic methods.

2. [ ] Claim numbers ....., because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. [ ] Claim numbers....., because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. [ ] OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING [2]

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. [ ] As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.

2. [ ] As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. [ ] No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:

4. [ ] As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.

[ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.PCT/DK 90/00156

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.
The members are as contained in the Swedish Patent Office EDP file on 90-08-28
The Swedish Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO-A1- 8404527	84-11-22	AU-B-	568549	88-01-07
		AU-D-	3011584	84-12-04
		BE-A-	899612	84-08-31
		CH-A-B-	665834	88-06-15
		DE-T-	3490215	85-05-15
		FR-A-B-	2545824	84-11-16
		GB-A-B-	2139627	84-11-14
		GB-A-B-	2158442	85-11-13
		GB-A-B-	2158443	85-11-13
		JP-T-	60501261	85-08-08
		NL-A-	8420137	85-04-01
		US-A-	4588716	86-05-13